Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /045 W

-----026372 190725Z/21

R 181127Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6020
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, CARICOM, XL

SUBJ: PROBLEMS CONTINUE FOR REGIONAL BODIES IN CARIBBEAN

- 1. SOURCE IN CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN BRIDGETOWN INDICATES THAT ACTING HEAD OF THE CARICOM SECRETARIAT, LEGAL OFFICER CARL DUNDASS, HAS TOLD FRIENDS THAT HE EXPECTS TO RESIGN HIS CARICOM POSITION IN EARLY OCTOBER. THE CANADIAN OFFICER TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THE IMPENDING RESIGNATION IS ONE REASON THE MEETING OF CARICOM FOREIGN MINISTERS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER MAY BE POSTPONED.
- 2. THE CANADIAN OFFICER ALSO INDICATES THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES COUNCIL (WIAS), GUS COMPTON OF ST. LUCIA, IS NOT RECEIVING ANY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO HOLD A MEETING OF WIAS MINISTERS LATER IN 1978 BECAUSE THE SMALL ISLAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNMENTS ARE RELUCTANT TO MAKE ANY DECISION ON THE ESTABLISH-MENT OF A COMMON SERVICES ADMINISTRATION. SUCH AN ADMINISTRATION WOULD BEGIN IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS GENERAL IDEAS FOR COMMON SERVICES AMONG THE ISLANDS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED UPON IN PRINCIPLE BY THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS

3. COMMENT. NEITHER DEVELOPMENT NOTED ABOVE IS ENCOURAGING AT A TIME WHEN CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE AGAIN ACKNOWLEDGING THE NEED FOR GREATER COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION. THE CARICOM LEADERSHIP QUESTION MAY BECOME DIFFICULT IF THE DUNDASS RESIGNATION PRECEDES THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL, WHILE THE INCREASE IN PRACTICAL COOPERATION AMONG THE ASSOCIATED STATES SEEMS DESTINED TO WAIT FOR MOVES TO INDEPENDENCE TO BE COMPLETED BY SEVERAL OF THE SMALL ISLANDS. THE CANADIAN OFFICER INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT EXPECTED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE ASSOCIATED STATES EVENTUALLY TO CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER COOPERATION AMONG THE SMALLER ISLANDS AND THAT, IN THE SHORT TERM, THE SMALLER ISLANDS WOULD BUILD GREATER COOPERATION AMONG THEMSELVES MORE QUICKLY THAN WOULD BE NOTICEABLE AT THE HIGHER, CARICOM-WIDE AREA. END COMMENT. **EDDY**

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS)

Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRIDGE02324
Document Source: CORD

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780339-0969

Format: TEL From: BRIDGETOWN Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780845/aaaabljc.tel

Line Count: 79 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 4ef35160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1685736 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: PORG, XL, CARICOM, (DUNDASS, CARL)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ef35160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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